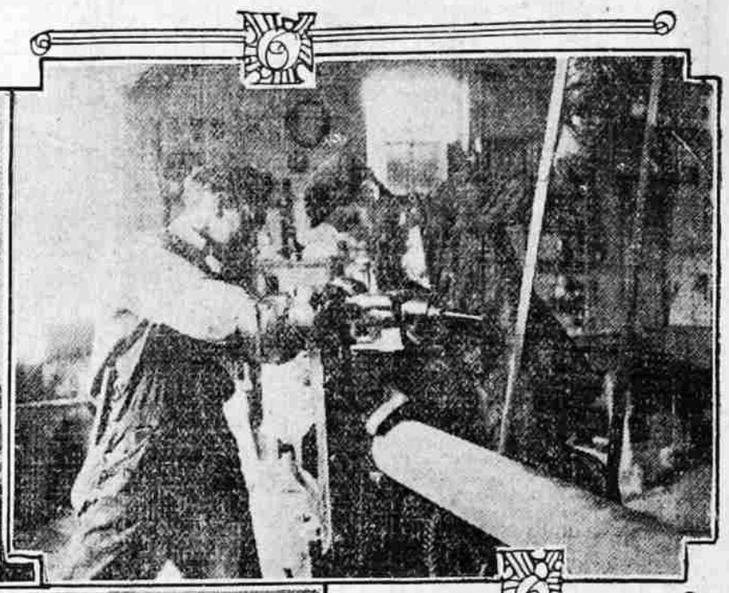
Substituting HARD WORK for ATHLETICS

Park College Faculty Makes Every Student Labor Several Hours a Day. Grandson of Mrs. Nettie McCormick No Exception to Rule



In the International Harvester Company shops at Chicago there is a workman who is a young college graduate, named Brown. This workman comes to the shops every morning and is on hand to begin when the whistle blows just like every other workman.

The main point of difference is that he comes from a home of luxury. His father is one of the officers of the company and his grandmother is Mrs. Nettie F. McCormick, a wealthy stockholder. A visitor to the harvester works upon hearing of the story of the young workman, asked why he did not choose an easier occupation in the office, as his other relatives had done.

"Brown's different," said the man showing the visitor around the plant. "He was educated out at Park College and learned to like to sweat. When he quit college he came here and announced his ambition was to be a workman until he learned the rudiments of harvester manufacture. His ambition now is to be a salesman and I can assure you he will make a good one. He knows all about a harvesting machine."

Brown was not always enthusiastic about hard work. Brought up in luxury he had not cared much about labor until several years ago when he became old enough to go to college. His father thought a long time about where to send him and finally decided on Park College, Parkville, Mo. At Parkville everybody has to work. They don't play football there, and there is no such thing as inter-collegiate athletics. Brown's father was attracted to the place through his wife's mother, Mrs. McCormick, who had given large sums of money to the endowment fund and had also given a college building to the institution.

When Brown reached the place he was informed he would have to fire furnaces so many hours each morning. He was given as a room mate, a son of a farmer, and was treated just like the rest of the students. After he had been at the institution a while he learned to like work and pitched in with all his might. The result is he is a good workman with high ideals and ambitions. He wants to understand machinery so he can improve the present methods of harvesting. He wants to learn about working conditions so he can get the viewpoint of men he some day will be called upon to command.

Brown is only one of many men who have gone through the mill at Park College. The institution is unique in many respects. It was founded in 1875 by George F. Park, an abolitionist editor, and John A. McAfee, who became its first president. These men wanted to open a college for poor boys who had no means of winning a college education without some help. Col. Park, founder of Parkville, had started the town hoping it would be the metropolis of the West. He was disappointed, however, for Kansas City grew up ten miles to the south and Parkville remained a village. Then came McAfee. McAfee had worked his own way through college. He decided work was good for a young man and besides he realized a working college would be a good place for poor boys and girls.

PARK MAKES FIRST DONATION.

He asked Park to give a big farm for the college campus. Colonel Park offered Dr. McAfee the use of an old stone hotel building on the Missouri River front of the town for his first college classes. And he gave him a garden patch. With these he bade the educator create a college, agreeing that in case of a good show of success he would after five years donate to the school the hotel building, twenty acres rising up the bluffs behind the hotel for a campus, and a farm of eighty acres farther "inland" for endowment. Dr. McAfee accepted the conditions and fulfilled them.

Dr. MAfee did not live to see his school on what could be called a firm foundation. At his death in 1890, only a few of the score of buildings now used by the college had been secured; but McCormick Chapel—the gift of Mrs. Nettie F. McCormick of Chicago, and Copley Hall, to which the largest donors were Mr. and Mrs. William Thaw of Pittsburgh, were finished, and the main college building—named Mackay from the chief contributor, Mr. Duncan Mackay of Morrison, Ill.—was partially completed; while other powerful and liberal friends had been enlisted heart and soul in the plans of the institution. And the idea had been placed above the scoffing of the scornful, for ten classes had of the scornful, for ten classes had then already been graduated, and there was no gainsaying the quality of the product that had come forth from the process.

Park is not an industrial college. It does not teach trades. It carries on no work for work's sake. The activities of the "family" are for its own support and are shaped to produce what the community needs within itself. Nothing is sold except the accidental surplus of an extra good crop. And it is surprising to see how near the student body of Park does come to furnishing itself with sufficient food and shelter—the raiment is a different problem. The college now owns 1,200 acres of land in the immediate neighborhood of Parkville, and half of this is under high cultivation. The rest is in pasture and timber. Young men and women attending a college of the conventional type are free from school when commencement is over, but to the Park "family" the students "belong" straight through from matriculation to graduation. The school terms cover ten months complete, and the two months of the summer are harvest time. In order that parents at home may not wholly be deprived of their children, half the student body is allowed to be away in July and half in August, but the contingent remaining at Parkville in either month is daily busy gathering in from wheat fields, corn fields and garden the provision for the winter following.

APPLES WIN FAIR PRIZES.

Agricultural work is not the only available occupation for these earnest boys by any means. There is a splendid orchard of 160 acres where they grow and gather wonderful fruit. A barrel of apples which students picked and packed in this orchard in 1903 was kept in cold storage and opened at the World's Fair at St. Louis the next summer. The judge—an expert of high degree—examined each separate apple and found not a visible flaw in one. He graded the exhibit 100, saying it could be no better. There are quarries on the farm, and the students quarry stone and dress it for Park buildings. They cut oak trees in the college forests, saw the logs in the college sawmill, and kiln-dry the boards and plane them in the college planing mill. Oak floor is cheaper than pine floor in a Park College building. The students can make brick, as they did the brick in McCormick Chapel, and can lay up walls as straight as the best masons. Students run the waterworks plant, which the college owns and supplies both college and town. They are running the new electric light and steam heating plant. They dig trenches and lay pipe and install electrical apparatus. They operate the college print-shop, the blacksmith shop and the harness shop as well. And so on through an almost interminable catalogue of the things that are needful in a community of people with average human wants.

The young women naturally have most of their duty indoors. There are no hired cooks, waitresses or chambermaids in the Park College limits; all the domestic drudgery requisite in any of the dormitories or dining halls is discharged by students—all but the heavy janitor work by the young women. Girls find employment also in the laundry and in the canning factory. And, of course, nobody considers domestic service disgraceful at Park.

But inasmuch as Park—as already explained—is aiming to afford an intellectual and not industrial education, the management must be careful not to demand of any student enough manual labor to prevent his studying and reciting effectively. The requirement of the curriculum is for seventeen hours of recitation weekly—about the average of all colleges. The work period daily must therefore be no longer than a proper time of physical recreation from mental activities. This period has been fixed at three and a half hours for academy students and three hours for collegians, the hours being assigned in different parts of the day to different relays of students so that necessary work may be kept in constant progress.

OWN EXPENSES PAID, IF POSSIBLE.

Students coming to the college pay their expenses if they can afford to do so. All students are expected to pay as much as they can. The college is not a charitable institution. Everyone is given an opportunity to earn all he can and pay all he can to make the college as nearly as possible self supporting. At the same time no one is refused admission if he is unable to pay anything. All students living on the campus must work. There are a few living in town who are not subjected to the law of work, but as Parkville is a small college town there is little room off the campus for students and nearly everyone works.

Among the students who have added fame to Park College is Congressman Pearl Decker. Decker entered Park College in the early nineties. While there he won the State collegiate oratorical contest for his college and also won the interstate oratorical contest, being the champion orator for ten States in the Middle West. After leaving Park he became a lawyer at Joplin, Mo.

Decker was a magnetic orator. While practicing law in Joplin an attempt was made to lynch a man. Decker went to the door of the jail and addressed the mob gathered there to lynch the prisoner. He painted a vivid picture of the shame Joplin would undergo should they lynch a man. He begged Joplin men to let the law take its course and save the name of Joplin from disgrace.

The mob at first was angry. Won by his oratory the people finally broke into cheers. From that day Decker was a leader in Joplin and was finally sent to Congress where he is now serving.

Among the men students was Texas Bill, who arrived in Kansas City one day on a stock train from Texas, hoping to go to college. He walked into Parkville from Kansas City and matriculated without a cent of money. Later he went to a theological seminary at Princeton, having been graduated from Park, and is now a missionary to Porto Rico. There he has founded an institution similar to Park College. He is the president and is known in Porto Rico as Dr. J. William Harris.

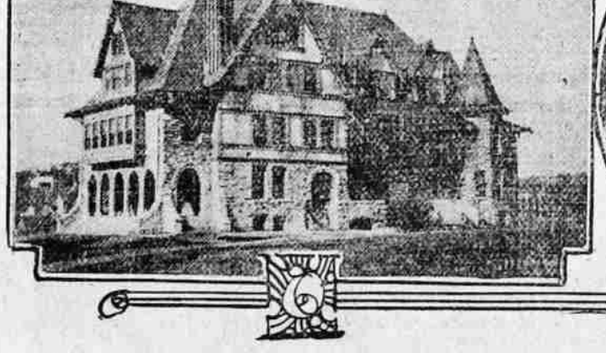
Charles A. Leker is another of the graduates who came to Park College and matriculated without owning any money. Leker's father was a wealthy farmer but did not believe in college education. Leker insisted he wanted to go to school, however, and offered to work his own way. He heard he could do so at Park College and went there. He became a leader of his class, was director of the band, a member of the orchestra and glee club and was entered in five public debates and three college oratorical contests. He is now principal of Kidder Institute.

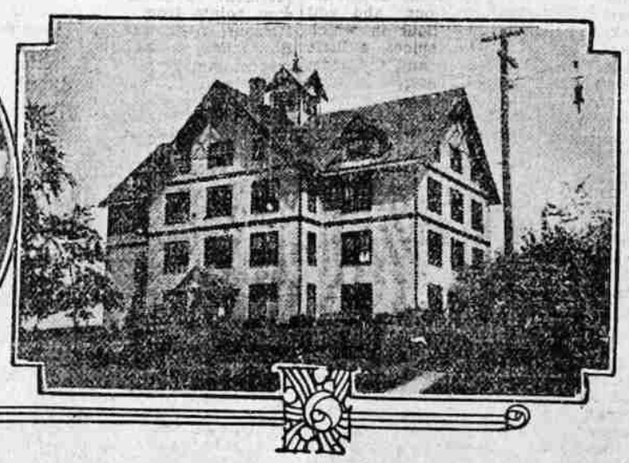
His father was so pleased with the results of the education of his eldest son he sent his brother to Park College and paid the tuition.

Altogether there have been 842 graduates of Park College. Of that number fifty-one per cent entered the ministry. The student body there this year represents forty-one States and twenty-one countries.

One of the foreign students was H. K. Tong, a Chinese boy. He was told of Park College by a missionary. He went to Park, where he was admitted in spite of his color. After being graduated from Park College he went to New York and took a course in a school of journalism. Going to China he became editor of the Pekin Daily News. He has been secretary of the Chinese Senate.

Another foreigner was Stephen Momchiloff, a Bulgarian. To escape the cruelties of the Turks and to seek freedom and fortune, he fled to America. His memory of Turkish atrocities is most vivid. In one of the horrible massacres of about thirty years ago he saw many of his own relatives cut down with the sword, among whom were his own father and mother and an uncle. A Turk was about to cut him down with a sword when an officer said, "He is an attractive little fellow," and pulled him up on his saddle and took him home. There, to his surprise, he found his old nurse. Together they wandered over Bulgaria, fleeing from the officer who has saved him, and living with friendly Turks. Finally, he took passage for America and landed in New York City. For some months he worked here and there, many times half starved, and finally wandered off to Massachusetts. He worked there on a farm for a while, and having laid by a little money he went to Chicago. Day after day he searched for employment, but could find none. At last his money was gone and for many hours he was without food. He walked into a saloon and the saloon keeper gave him something to eat, and a good deal more to do. Because he did not work to suit the over-exacting saloonkeeper he was kicked out into the streets of Chicago, homeless, hungry and desperate. He had about decided to kill himself, when a clergyman, seeing the look of desperation on his face, spoke kindly to him. In a little while, they were talking together about Park College. Within a week or ten days, the homeless, suicidal Bulgarian was in Park College, where he finally was graduated, and after a thological course in Auburn Seminary, he returned to his native land as a missionary.





SCENES and activities about Park College campus. Center—McCormick Chapel, donated by Mrs. Nettie F. McCormick. Lower left—Building donated by alumni. Lower right—Copley Hall, donated by Mrs. William Thaw, mother of Harry K. Thaw.

Harnessing a Toad.

To an ingenious Scotchman goes the credit of being the first person to harness a mouse and make him a money-earning factor. He was David Hutton, a native of Dunfermline, and his unexpected death alone prevented him from carrying out his experiments on a much larger scale.

Hutton erected a small mill at Dunfermline in 1820 and began the spinning of thread. Just how he made use of the small rodents is set forth in a pamphlet called "Curiosity Coffee Room."

"In the summer of 1812," he wrote, "I had occasion to be in Perth, and, when inspecting the toys and trinkets that were manufactured by the French prisoners in the depot there my attention was involuntarily attracted by a little toy house with a wheel in the gable of it that was running rapidly around, impelled by the gravity of a common house mouse.

"For one shilling I purchased the house, mouse and wheel. Inclosing it in a handkerchief, on my journey homeward I was compelled to contemplate its favorite amusement.

"But how to apply half-ounce power which is the weight of a mouse to a useful purpose was the difficulty. At length the manufacture of sewing thread seemed the most practicable."

Though Mr. Hutton proved that an ordinary mouse would average a run of ten and one-half miles a day, he had one mouse which ran the remarkable distance of eighteen miles in that time.

A half-penny's worth of oatmeal was sufficient for its food for 35 days, during which time it ran 362 miles. He kept two mice constantly engaged in the making a sewing thread for more than a year.

This thread-mill was so constructed that the mouse was able to twist twine and reel from 100 to 200 threads a day. Sundays not excepted. To perform this task it had to run ten and one-half miles a day, which it did with perfect ease every other day.

On the half-penny's worth of oatmeal, which lasted for five weeks, one of these little mice made 3,350 threads twenty-five inches long, and as a penny was paid to women for every handmade in the ordinary way, the mouse at that rate earned 18 cents every six weeks.

Allowing for board and for machinery there was a clear yearly profit from each mouse of $1.50.

It was Mr. Hutton's intention to apply for the loan of the Dunfermline Cathedral, which was empty, where he planned to set up 10,000 mouse mills and still leave room for the keepers and several hundreds of spectators; but this wonderful project was never carried out because of the inventor's sudden death.

World's Emery Supply Cornered.

Emery is a common substance utilized in thousands of different ways, but there are few people who know that virtually the world's supply of emery comes from two points in the Eastern Hemisphere. The Greek islands and Asia Minor, near Smyrna, are the chief producers of emery, says the Engineering and Mining Journal.

The recent conflict in the Balkans has seriously interfered with the production of this agency for soft polishing. In fact, it has shut off the supply from the United States, which heretofore has imported about $250,000 worth of emery each year.

In addition there has been a strike of emery workers on Naxos, one of the islands of Greek possession, and the Greek Chamber passed a bill regulating the trade in the commodity. A speedy settlement of the labor difficulties followed, and it is expected the market will return to normal in the near future.